

## **1 Executive Summary**

I am pleased to report that 99.80% of the water supplied by Jersey Water in 2004 complied with the Maximum Allowable Concentrations set out in the Water (Jersey) Law 1972.

During 2004, Jersey Water treated and distributed 7,305 Million litres of drinking water to supply the needs of our customers. The water quality department have taken 8,485 samples of water from streams, reservoirs, treatment works, treated water reservoirs, the distribution system and from customers taps for analysis to ensure the water we supply is safe to drink.

From the 1st January 2004 an amendment to the Water (Jersey) Law 1972 governing water quality was introduced. The amendment to the law sets out the Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) for physical, bacteriological and chemical parameters measured in the treated water we supply. The law also requires the Company to obtain approval for its monitoring programme for treated water on an annual basis. The law amendment and MACs set are based on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations for England & Wales 2000.

Due to the fact that the Company has no control over the catchment areas and land use, the Environment & Public Services Committee agreed to a dispensation under the law for nitrates. The dispensation allows 33% of the samples taken for nitrate to be above the MAC (50 mg/l) but not greater than 70 mg/l. In 2004 only 5% of samples taken for nitrate in the distribution system failed to comply with the MAC and the maximum level recorded was 51.8 mg/l.

Given the very good overall results on water quality for 2004, it was with some disappointment that a relatively high concentration of the herbicide cyanazine in a sample from Augrès Water Treatment Works was detected on 29 December 2004. The source of the substance, used in daffodil production, was found to be in Grands Vaux Reservoir and its feeder streams. Advice from a leading toxicologist, who advises the UK government and the World Health Organisation confirmed that the level detected was not harmful to human health and the water was safe to drink. The incident was reported immediately to the Environment and Public Services Department and Health Protection Unit.

Jersey Water's monitoring programme for herbicides and pesticides at the treatment works exceeds the regulatory requirement by four times which, given that the substances have to be analyzed in the UK, clearly assists us in monitoring for these substances.

*Howard N Snowden*

**Managing Director & Engineer**